

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-15, 17 and 18 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 2 and 3 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, claims 1 and 2 have been rewritten in independent form as claim 17. Claims 1 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form as claim 18. Claims 17 and 18 are now in condition for allowance. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-15 are also in condition for allowance for the reasons as set forth below.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority. In view of the fact that the Applicants' claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from the Applicants at this time.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner has not approved the Formal Drawings submitted by the Applicant. It is respectfully submitted that the drawings comply with the requirements of the USPTO. If the Examiner has any objections to the Formal Drawings he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned as soon as possible so that appropriate action may be taken. No further action is believed to be necessary at this time unless the undersigned receives a notice from the Examiner.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 24, 2003. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 has been received from the Examiner. No further action is necessary at this time.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner objected to page 3, line 19 of the specification and requested that "claiming" be changed to – clamping --. As the Examiner will note, page 3 of the specification has been amended. The Examiner's objection has been obviated.

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS

The Examiner has objected to claims 4 and 6 as being improper dependent claims. As the Examiner will note, claims 4 and 6 have been amended to properly set forth the claimed subject matter. The Examiner's objection has been obviated.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 4-6 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Sticht, US 5,053,173. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, claims 1 and 4-6 have been amended. Claim 16 has been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 4-6 as presently presented to the Examiner are not anticipated by the Sticht patent. As set forth in Section 2131 of the MPEP Original Eight Edition, August 2001 Latest Revision February, 2003, page 2100-70:

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. Of California*, 814 F2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). . . . “The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claims.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F2d 1226, 1236, 9 USQP2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art cited by the Examiner does not set forth each and every element as defined in the claims. Thus, the Examiner's rejection based on 35 USC 102 has been obviated.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103

Claims 9-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Sticht in view of Miyajima, US 6,478,562. Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Sticht in view of Furuta et al, US 6,908,293. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the outset, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the present application are directed to a combination of elements wherein a press section is provided that includes a molding die for clamping and molding the work. A cavity plate includes a cavity hole, which defines a shape and thickness of a resin mold section of the work. A means is provided for setting the work in said press section. A means is provided for repeatedly carrying the cavity plate into and out from the press section. A means is provided for positioning the cavity plate onto the molding die. In addition, a vertical driving mechanism is provided for moving the cavity plate, which has been carried into said press section by the carrying means, close to and away from a clamping face of the molding die. The vertical driving mechanism moves the cavity plate away from the clamping face of the opened molding die after molding the work. Thereafter, the carrying means carries the cavity plate so as to separate and take out the molded work from the molding die.

The Sticht patent is directed to a process for manufacturing moldings of plastic wherein, as illustrated in Fig. 2 a movable section 22 includes a cavity 46 which is mounted on a carrier 18 and is circulated by a conveyor 5. As illustrated in Fig. 1, the carrier 18 moves along a substantially rectangular path with table modules 3 and guide modules 4 and vertical guideways 8 and lateral guideways 7, being formed to permit the conveyor 5 to enable the carrier 18 to

travel in a substantially rectangular path. The Sticht patent does not disclose a vertical driving mechanism for moving the cavity plate close to and away from a clamping face of the molding die.

In addition, as set forth on pages 4 and 5, the second full paragraphs of the Examiner's Office Action the Examiner concedes that the Sticht patent does not disclose:

- a transfer mold;
- an overflow cavity;
- adjusting for differences in substrate thickness;
- a degating station for removing the gate; or
- runner portions ancillary to the mold injection step.

The Miyajima patent merely discloses a method of resin molding wherein the upper die 3 and the lower die 4 are clamped together. A resin sending section "A" includes a pot 7 with a plunger 8 that is used together with a release film for sending the melted resin material into the cavities 5 formed in the lower die 4. See, Column 3, lines 16-25 of the Miyajima patent.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's modification of the Sticht patent in view of the Miyajima patent would not render obvious the subject matter as set forth in the claims of the present application as amended. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's modification of the Sticht patent in view of the Miyajima patent would not be possible. As illustrated in Fig. 2 of the Sticht patent the cavity 46 is mounted on the carrier 18. The carrier 18 is a fixed lower surface for engaging with the table modules 3 and guide modules 4 and vertical guideways 8 and lateral guideways 7, that are formed to permit the conveyor 5 to

enable the carrier 18 to travel in a substantially rectangular path. One of ordinary skill in this art would not modify the Sticht patent to include a plunger that would move upwardly from under the carrier 18. Such a modification would destroy the disclosure of the Sticht patent. Such a modification is not sanctioned by the provisions of 35 USC 103.

The Furuta et al patent is directed to a resin encapsulating system wherein one or more middle molds remain free without being mechanically connected with an upper mold and a lower mold. The Furuta et al patent was relied on for the teachings of a degating station for removing the gate and runner portions ancillary to the mold injection step.

In view of the amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art relied on by the Examiner does not anticipate nor does it render obvious the subject matter set forth in the claims of the present application. The Furuta et al patent is merely directed to a molding system that does not render obvious the subject matter as set forth in the claims wherein a combination of elements are set forth that include the vertical driving mechanism.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed modification by the Examiner of the Sticht patent in view of the Miyajima and Furuta et al patents renders the Sticht patent unsatisfactory for its intended purpose and thus is not sanctioned by the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103.

NO PROSECUTION HISTORY ESTOPPEL

The claims have been amended to clarify the claim language. No prosecution history estoppel would apply to the interpretation of the limitations set forth in claims in view of the

fact that this subject matter has been continuously presented since the original filing date of the present application.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

If the Examiner has any questions with regard to this application, he/she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 so that an interview can be arranged in connection with this application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and

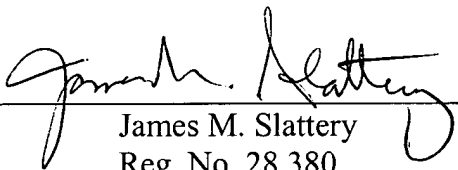
complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

A prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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